

Abstract

A method and apparatus for analyzing a plurality of substances. A platen is provided having two substantially parallel planar surfaces and a plurality of through-holes. An optical arrangement analyzes light emanating from the through-holes. The through-holes may be individually addressable, and may have volumes less than 100 nanoliters. Samples may be accurately dispensed, diluted and mixed in accordance with embodiments of the invention, and may be plated onto walls of the through-holes, and then subsequently resuspended prior to characterization, or, alternatively, retained in the through-holes by surface tension.

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